



The HPD News

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One Year Later: Houston Remembers 9/11 Victims

On Wednesday, September 11, 2002, memorial services will be held nationwide in remembrance of the victims of last year's deadly terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

As a show of unity and support, classified and civilian employees of the Houston Police Department are invited to attend either a ceremony at City Hall at 7:30 a.m. or an evening service at 7 p.m. at the Miller Outdoor Theatre at Hermann Park.

Many of our officers traveled to New York City to assist in the cleanup efforts or to offer emotional support to those who lost fellow officers, firefighters, or loved ones. One group of HPD officers had the task of sifting through tons of debris from Ground Zero that was dumped at a makeshift site on Staten Island. Dressed in protective clothing and masks, the officers searched debris for any evidence or forms of identification of victims.

"At the end of the day, you smelled and felt like you had been at a morgue," said Sergeant Toby Hernandez of the Homicide Division.

"We were sifting through piles and looking for anything from jewelry to computer equipment to personal belongings," said Adrian Garcia of the Mayor's Anti-Gang Office. "We found several pieces of evidence that could have had a name attached to four or five of the victims," said Garcia.

"I was just overwhelmed and shocked at what I saw," said Officer Armando Tello of Central Patrol. "Right next to us were piles of wrecked police and fire vehicles, staring at us," said Officer Tello.

Garcia hopes all officers make an effort to attend at least one of the services in Houston to show how much the city supports those who gave their lives on September 11, 2001.



HPD officers and some of the local officials who made the trip to New York gather at a dig site on Staten Island. From left to right: Sergeant Robert Ruiz of Eastside Patrol, Sergeant Toby Hernandez and Officer Mac Sosa of the Homicide Division, Officer Alfred Postel of Houston Community College Police Department, Officer Armando Tello of Central Patrol, Kevin Maples, a community volunteer, and Adrian Garcia of the Mayor's Anti-Gang Office.

Chief's Column

Beginning September 1, 2002 and continuing through August 31, 2003, all classified and civilian personnel of HPD will be required to attend mandatory training. The dates will coincide with the TCLEOSE training year.

Classified employees will be required to attend one of the following eight-hour mandatory courses, along with 32 hours of elective training to complete the required total of 40 hours of training.

- All classified personnel with the rank of Police Officer and Senior Police Officer will attend an 8-hour course covering Defensive Tactics/Use of Force Policy (4 hours) and a city required Defensive Driving Refresher Course (4 hours). This

defensive driving course must be repeated every three years. It was last conducted in 2000.

- All classified personnel with the rank of Sergeant and above will attend an 8-hour course covering Use of Force Issues/Supervisory Liability and Supervisory Resources Available for Managing Employees (4 hours) and the city required Defensive Driving Refresher Course (4 hours).

In addition to the above classes, all classified personnel will be required to complete 32 hours of elective training to fulfill the department mandate of 40 hours of training.

All civilian personnel must attend a one-day course, which will cover the following:

- The city required Defensive

Driving Course.

- Personal Safety to assist civilian employees in protecting themselves at work, in transit, and at home.
- Houston Municipal Employees' Pension System Update, which provides an explanation of the new civilian pension system rules.



The dates for the classified and civilian mandatory training will be listed in MAPPER and on the monthly training calendars under the title of Mandatory 2003. All personnel should direct training and scheduling questions to the division training coordinator.

Update: Construction Continues Near 1200 Travis



Downtown construction continues blocks from the Milam entrance of the downtown police headquarters. Orange barrels and large directional arrowed signs are marking the way for progress along 1200 Milam. Four lanes will be reduced to two as construction runs right in front of the garage entrance. Additional work is scheduled to start in two months, so plan your trips to 1200 Travis wisely. The construction should only be a minor inconvenience -- plans are being made to assure that HPD employees and visitors will have little trouble getting in and out of the complex. For more information on downtown construction visit www.downtownstreets.com.

Club Helps Improve Speaking Skills

The ability to speak directly to peoples' most inner beliefs is truly a gift. It is awe-inspiring to speak to another person and convince them. Reverend Edwin A. Davis has been doing that since 1993 as chaplain of the Houston Police Department.

Reverend Davis answered two callings at the same time when he became a police officer and a minister. He has only taken one speaking class in his life and although he has a natural talent with words, he will tell you that anyone can speak publicly. "You have to get control of your emotions because the only thing that can paralyze you is fear," he said.

Reverend Davis will be the keynote speaker at a specially arranged Toastmasters meeting to share his insight on how his speaking abilities have helped him in his roles as a police officer and a minister. The HPD Toastmasters Club will host the event on Monday, October 7, 2002 at noon on the 23rd floor at 1200 Travis Street (HPD Headquarters).

The HPD Toastmasters Club was established as an educational tool for both officers and civilian employees to improve their speaking skills and to enhance their overall public presentation. Meetings are held every other Monday throughout the year.

For a schedule of speakers and more information about the HPD Toastmasters Club, contact club president Gloria Mitchell (Computer Services) at (713) 247-5762 or the club secretary, Sharon Head (Training) at (281) 230-2343.



Several HPD Programs Aimed at Youth During School Year

School is back in session and that means Houston area children will have an opportunity to participate in several youth-oriented programs offered by the Houston Police Department.

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) will have an estimated 170,000 students in 300 schools participating in the program this year. D.A.R.E. informs children about the dangers of drugs while building self-esteem and teaching them to resist peer pressure.

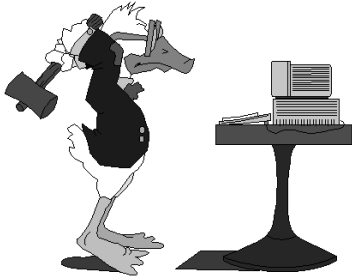
P.A.N.D.A. (Parents and Neighbors Defense Alliance) provides safety for children while traveling to and from school. P.A.N.D.A. has designated 'safe houses' for children to go to if they feel unsafe in any circumstances. All Houston Fire Department stations are designated 'safe houses' along with many businesses and residences throughout the city. Parents, acting as volunteers, can monitor children as they come and go from school. P.A.N.D.A. officers also visit schools to teach students about 'stranger danger' and how to protect themselves.

The HPD Explorers Program is open to young people between the ages of 14 and 20 years old. The program is aimed at youths considering a career in law enforcement. Explorers participate in mock scenarios such as a burglary in progress or a traffic accident to understand police procedures.

The Youth Police Advisory Council (Y-PAC), begun by Chief C.O. Bradford in 1997, is made up of teenagers who attend Houston area schools. Y-PAC meets with the Chief five times during the school year to discuss problems faced by young people. The program also helps create a positive relationship between young people and law enforcement personnel.

Other HPD programs for young people include Officer Whistles, Officer Friendly, the Police Activities League (P.A.L.), and McGruff, the Crime Prevention Dog. For more information about these programs, contact the Community Outreach Division at (713) 308-9100 or the Community Services Division at (713) 308-3200.

HPD Computer Help Desk Conquers Digital Divide



The Houston Police Department's Computer Services Help Desk provides professional assistance to employees to keep their city-issued laptop or desktop computers operating at peak performance levels. The phone number is (713) 247-8500 and the hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

When you call the Help Desk, be ready to provide the following information: the computer terminal name (if your computer is connected to OLO) or the computer brand name (like Compaq) along with the HPD bar code number which should be affixed to the PC tower.

The Help Desk staff uses a sophisticated tracking system and can usually offer a remedy to your computer problem on the phone. The Help Desk is staffed by three employees who answer about 900 calls monthly. Most of the problems range from forgotten passwords to hard drive malfunctions.

Fall Festivals at HPD Storefronts to Help Needy

Several Houston Police Department storefronts will hold festivals within the coming weeks. Each festival will offer participants food, fun, and games while giving citizens the chance to acquaint themselves with the officers who serve their community. The festivals also serve as fundraisers so that officers can buy Thanksgiving baskets or Christmas presents for the less fortunate and to provide financial assistance in other areas. Here is a partial list of upcoming HPD storefront festivals:

Northline Park Storefront on Saturday, September 28, 2002, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fonville Middle School, 725 East Little York. Call (281) 272-4250 for more information.

Aldine Community Station will participate in the "North Houston Advisory Council Annual Fundraiser" on Saturday, October 5, 2002, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 161 West Road. Call (281) 272-4784 for more information.

Acres Homes will host its fifth annual "Gospel Extravaganza" on Friday, November 8, 2002, at 7 p.m. at the storefront located at 6719 West Montgomery Road. Church choirs and family groups will perform. Tickets are \$10. Call (713) 699-9591 for more information.

Fondren Storefront will hold its festival on Saturday, November 9, 2002, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside Wal-Mart, 11242 South Gessner. Part of the proceeds will be given to the HPD Explorers Post #2461, an HPD youth program for teens considering a career in law enforcement. Call (713) 773-7900 for more information.

Submit Your Story Ideas for the HPD News

This is **YOUR** newsletter. Let us know what you would like to read about. If you have an idea for a story in the HPD News or information you think your co-workers would be interested in reading, please share it with us. Call the Media Relations Office at (713) 308-1800 and ask for a public information officer.